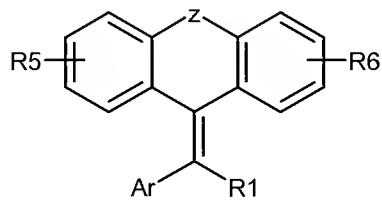


Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 – 23. (Cancelled)

24. (New) A compound of the formula:

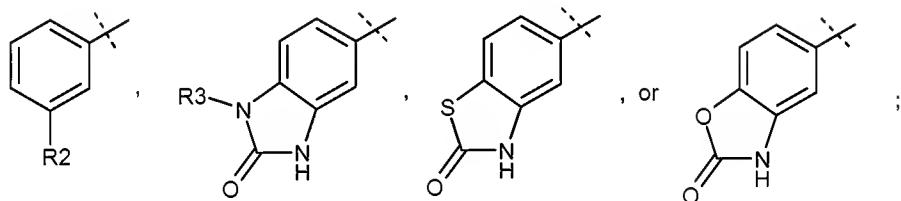


Formula I

wherein,

Z represents CH₂, S, or O;

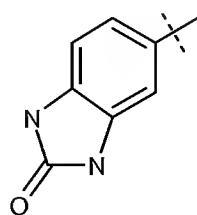
Ar represents a group of the formula:



R¹ represents hydrogen or (C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R² represents amino or NH SO₂R⁴;

R³ represents hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, heterocycle, substituted heterocycle, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-heterocycle, or (C₁-C₄)alkyl-substituted heterocycle, provided that where Ar represents:



then Z is other than O;

R⁴ represents independently at each occurrence (C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R⁵ and R⁶ represent independently at each occurrence hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-(C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, (C₁-C₄)alkoxy-(C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, NHR⁷, or N(R⁷)₂ wherein R⁷ represents independently at each occurrence (C₁-C₆)alkyl or (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

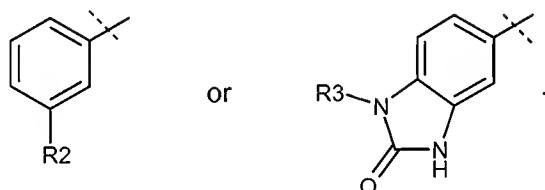
25. (New) The compound according to Claim 24 wherein R¹ represents hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

26. (New) The compound according to Claim 25 wherein R¹ represents hydrogen.

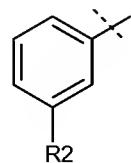
27. (New) The compound according to Claim 24 wherein Z represents S or O.

28. (New) The compound according to Claim 27 wherein Z represents S.

29. (New) The compound according to Claim 24 wherein Ar represents a group of the formula:

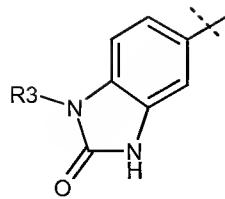


30. (New) The compound according to Claim 29 wherein Ar represents a group of the formula:



31. (New) The compound according to Claim 30 wherein R² represents NH SO₂CH₃.

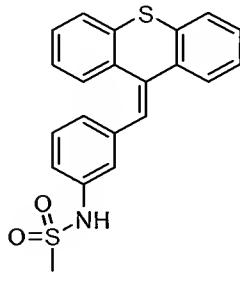
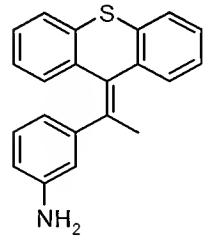
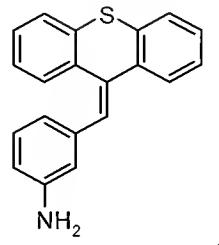
32. (New) The compound according to Claim 29 wherein Ar represents a group of the formula:

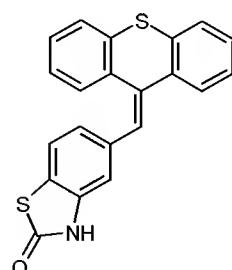
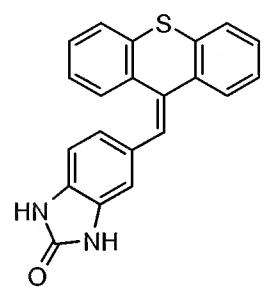
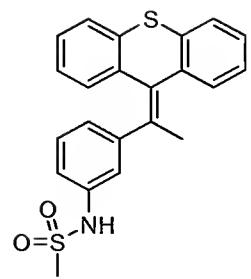


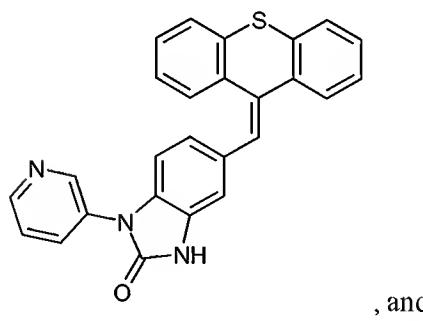
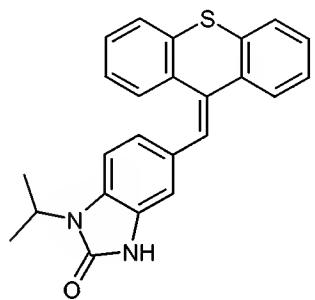
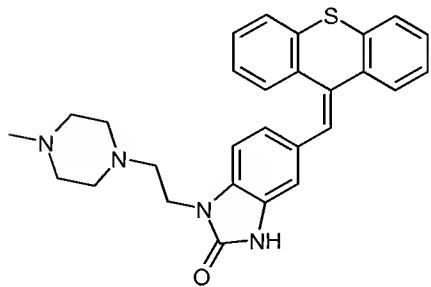
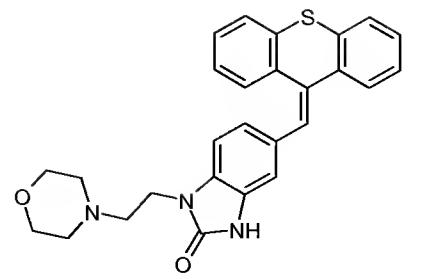
33. (New) The compound according to Claim 32 wherein R3 represents hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, heterocycle, substituted heterocycle, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-heterocycle, or (C₁-C₄)alkyl-substituted heterocycle .

34. (New) The compound according to Claim 24 wherein R⁵ and R⁶ represent independently at each occurrence hydrogen or flouro.

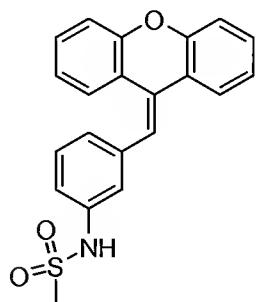
35. (New) A compound selected from the group consisting of







, and



,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

36. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound according to Claim 24 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.